**Registration of pregnant women**

†2070. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is proposal to make the registration of pregnant ladies mandatory in the name of checking female foeticide and if so, what information would be required to be furnished at the time of registration;

(b) whether it would impose ban on those ladies who willingly want to do abortion in order to adopt family planning as they already have more number of children and whether it would not adversely affect family planning programmes; and

(c) whether the proposed system is against the fundamental rights of women to decide whether to carry the baby or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Punishment for maintaining faulty equipment and substandard medicines**

2071. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no stringent laws to punish guilty persons playing with the lives of people with negligence in hospital treatment by dereliction of duty and maintaining faulty equipment and sub-standard medicines; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to deal with such cases in a more effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are various laws for taking legal action against doctors/hospitals if medical negligence is proved, such as Consumer Protection Act and/or action by the Medical Council of India under the provisions of Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulation, 2002.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, all efforts are made with regard to proper maintenance of life saving equipments and for ensuring that only quality medicines are procured.

**Suspended coal particles as** cause **of T.B. in Jharkhand**

2072. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people are infected with TB in Jharkhand;

(b) the annual mortality rate in Jharkhand for the last 5 years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any study has been conducted to learn the effects of suspended coal particles on people living in the vicinity, which we believed to be the cause for T.B. among its population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per the National Annual Risk of TB infection survey conducted in 2000-2003, it is estimated that about 42,000 new cases (smear positive, smear negative and extra-pulmonary TB) occur every year in Jharkhand.

(b) The mortality rate among patients registered under RNTCP for the last 5 years is as under:

2003 - 2.5%

2004 - 2.6%

2005 - 3.7%

2006 - 3.7%

2007 (1st and 2nd quarter) - 3.9%

(c) No Sir. No specific study has been conducted in Jharkhand to learn the effect of coal particles on occurrence of TB.

Evidence from literature review show an association between exposure to dust (pneumoconiosis) and occurrence of TB, and contributed by associated factors like low socio-economic conditions, malnutrition, unhealthy housing conditions, overcrowding among industrial population, which predisposes to breakdown of TB infections into TB disease.

**Upgradation of hospitals in Assam**

2073. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any policy to upgrade any hospital in Assam in the lines of AIIMS, Delhi specially the Guwahati Medical College (GMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new super speciality hospital is under consideration to be set up in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details of that including its estimated budgetary expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a proposal for upgradation of existing facilities of Guwahati Medical College at an estimated cost of Rs.31.20 crore under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been taken up. Out of Rs. 31.20 crore an amount of Rs. 10.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2006-07 and another installment is being released during current financial year.